

adheres the two plates to the frame member, as well as provides a seal between the outer peripheral surface of the frame member and the two plates. A further feature of the present invention is the provision of the composite fixing block formed of two metal blocks that are welded one to another. A getter is provided on an innerperipheral surface of the frame member.

The claims have been amended to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention.

Jaskie et al. relates to a display device having an anode plate and a cathode plate separated by a spacer structure. The spacer structure in one embodiment is formed of four tubes fastened together and having the getter material arranged as a rod in each of the tubes. The tubes are formed of glass and in other embodiments may be channel shaped or Z-shaped. In any event, in the tube embodiment, at the ends of the tubes there are provided spherical blocking bodies that serve to seal the tube assembly from the outside. As shown in Fig. 12 and as explained in the specification of Jaskie et al. at column 9 commencing at line 28, the blocking body 67 is positioned adjacent the end of the side member 35, which is the tube, and the blocking member 66 is also adjacent the end of the other side member 32, which is also a tube. Although the blocking members serve to seal off the end portions of the

tubes, in order to create a hermetic seal a hermetic sealant 58, such as glass frit, is applied generally surrounding each blocking body.

It is respectfully submitted that the hermetic sealant 58 as shown in Fig. 12 of Jaskie et al. is not the equivalent of the adhering member provided by the present invention that seals the space inside the frame by adhering to the pair of flat plates at a location where they contact the frame member, as shown at 50 in Fig. 1 of the instant application and, moreover, the adhering member of Jackie et al. does not adhere to the outer peripheral surface of the frame member, which in Jaskie et al. is the spacer structure 14.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Jaskie et al. fails to anticipate the present invention, as recited in amended claim 7.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-6 and 13-17 under 35 USC § 103, as being unpatentable over Jaskie et al. in view of Alwan.

Claims 1-6 and 13-17 recite the further feature of the present invention relating to a fixing block means, shown at 40 in Fig. 1, that is formed of a first metal fixing block welded to a second metal fixing block. These fixing blocks operate to align the two plates during assembly and also to provide accurate spacing between the two plates.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended hereby to emphasize the structure provided by these first and second metal fixing blocks.

Since Jaskie et al. fails to provide any such fixing block, Alwan is cited for allegedly showing that feature.

At first blush it would seem that Alwan does, in fact, provide a fixing block assembly. On the other hand, by examining the drawings in Alwan such as Fig. 3 it is seen that what Alwan is providing is a capacitor that is intended to hold the two plates together during assembly. Thus, as shown in Fig. 3 of Alwan, the blocks 20a and 20b are in fact formed of a first metal plate a dielectric, and a second metal plate. When voltages are applied to the metal plates, an attraction is formed and the dielectric is then sandwiched between the first and second metal plates as shown in Fig. 4. Various arrangements for the capacitor are disclosed, however, because it is required to provide an attractive capacitance some dielectric material must be arranged between the two metal plates.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted, even making some adaptation to Jaskie et al. to include the capacitor of Alwan, that the presently claimed invention would not result. As described in the present specification and as recited in the amended claims the fixing block is formed of two metal blocks

that are welded together. There is no dielectric arranged in between the fixing blocks and, in fact, any such dielectric would not function properly since it would then be impossible to weld the two fixing blocks together.

Therefore, by reason of Alwan's failure to disclose the first and second metal fixing blocks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5, 6, 13, 17, and 18 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Jaskie et al. and Alwan.

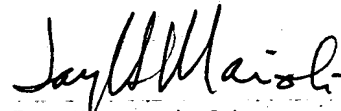
Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a sealing vessel, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP



Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:gr

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 10, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 4 as follows.

Namely, the anode substrate 10 and the cathode substrate 20 are [slightly depressed] lightly pressed against to each other and then, the laser welding is applied to a contact portion of the one side fixed block 41 and the second fixed block 42 by irradiating a laser beam from a laser head L to the contact portion. Thereby the first fixed block 41 and the second fixed block 42 is welded in a moment and the positional aligning condition of the anode substrate 10 and the cathode substrate 20 is certainly maintained.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7, and 13 by rewriting same to read as follows and cancel claims 2-4, 8-12, and 14-16, without prejudice or disclaimer.

--1. (Twice Amended) A sealing vessel comprising:

a pair of flat plates;

a frame member pinched between said pair of flat plates;

an adhering member for sealing a space provided inside of said frame member by adhering to said pair of flat plates at a contact location with said frame member and by adhering to an outer [periphery] peripheral surface of said frame member; and

fixing block means for coupling said pair of flat plates at an outside of said frame member and being formed of a first metal fixing block adhered to one of said pair of flat plates and a second metal fixing block adhered to the other of said pair of flat plates, said first and second metal fixing blocks being welded together.

--7. (Twice Amended) A sealing vessel comprising:

a pair of flat plates;

a frame member pinched between said pair of flat plates;

an adhering member for sealing a space formed inside of said frame member by adhering to said pair of flat plates at a contact location with said frame member and by adhering to an outer [periphery] peripheral surface of said frame member; and

a getter material attached to an inner surface of said frame member.

--13. (Twice Amended) A display apparatus comprising:

a pair of flat plates;

a frame member pinched between said pair of flat plates;

an adhering member for sealing a space provided inside of said frame member by adhering to said pair of flat plates at a contact location with said frame member and by adhering to an outer [periphery] peripheral surface of said frame member; and

fixing block means for coupling said pair of flat plates at outside of said frame member and being formed of a first metal fixing block adhered to one of said pair of flat plates and a second metal fixing block adhered to the other of said pair of flat plates, said first and second metal fixing blocks being welded together.